TWENTY-SEVENTH CONVENTION

The members of Chapter 48 were hostesses to the 27th convention, which was held August 19-22, 1957, in St. Anthony's parish, Cicero, Ill. Opening day mass was offered by His Excellency Bishop Vincent Brizgys.

Elected to the presidium were: Chairman — Mrs. Marie Kase (Mich.); Assistant Chairman — Mrs. Charlotte Serwo (Conn.); Secretary — Mrs. Victoria Leone (Ill.); Assistant Secretary — Mrs. Josephine Smith (Mass.).

Extending personal greetings to the convention were His Excellency Bishop V. Brizgys, Msgr. I. Albavicius, Rev. Jakaitis, MIC, Mr. L. Simutis, Editor of "Draugas", Rev. P. P. Cinikas, MIC, ALRC Federation Pres., Mr. A. Rudis, Lithuanian Consul Petras Dauzvardis and Mrs. A. Zailskas representing the Lithuanian scouts.

Undoubtedly the most important accomplishment of this convention was the Scholarship Fund. The following members were chosen to outline the Scholarship program: Mrs. Julia Mack (Mass.), Mrs. Dale Murray (Ill.), Mrs. Virginia Shimkus (Ill.) and Mrs. Sophie Dirzius (Ill.).

In addition, sick benefit forms were simplified even further and more attention focused on the needs of the monthly publication.

A number of changes took place in the Supreme Board. Assuming the leadership of the organization for the next two years were: Spiritual Dir. Msgr. F. M. Juras of Lawrence, Mass.; Pres. — Mrs. Marie Kase (Mich.); I Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Albina Poska (Ill.); II Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Marcella Watkins (Mass.); Secr. — Mrs. Victoria Leone (Ill.); Treas. — Mrs. Donna Kamm (Ill.); Trustees — Mrs. Druktanis and Mrs. Natalie Satunas (Ill.). Mrs. Dale Muray was reappointed Editor of "Moterų Dirva."

Dr. S. Biezis again assumed the position of Medical Examiner.

State Directors: Conn. — Mrs. Charlotte Serwo; Ill. — Mrs. Mary Paukstis; Mass., Maine and N.H. — Mrs. Ursula Daukantas; Mich. — Mrs.

A.L.R.C. WOMEN'S ALLIANCE TWENTY-SEVENTH CONVENTION
Cicero, Illinois



Stephanie Kryger; N.Y. and N.J. — Mrs. Anele Balbaitis; Ohio — Mrs. Anna Stepulionis; Pa. — Mrs. Julia Tamanauskas.

Grievance Committee: Miss Jessie Carp, Mrs. Helen Sirvinskas and Miss Sophie Bartkus.

Motions Committee: Miss Vera Galnaitis, Mrs. J. Cepulis and Mrs. Ursula Rastenis.

In his speech to the delegates, the Lithuanian Consul, Dr. Petras Dauzvardis, noted: "I have come to greet you, the delegates to this convention, and through you all of the members of the A.L.R.C. Women's Alliance, and to thank you all for your unceasing and varied support to Lithuania.

The Alliance has done much for the Lithuanian community in America, but it can do even more. This is required by the organization and the nation. Organizational growth and development are significant of its life and strength . . ." Many of the suggestions made in the Consul's speech were formulated into resolutions.

1957 — Supreme Board Members in Rome

On August 25, 1957, Mrs. Genevieve Kaneb and her mother, Mrs. Marcella Watkins, both of Chapter 5, Worcester, Mass., flew to Rome to attend the congress of World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. This occasion marked a rare honor for Mrs. Kaneb, who was the first American-born woman of Lithuanian descent. to represent both American-Lithuanian Catholic women and Lithuanian Catholics behind the Iron Curtain at the congress.

As an official greeting to the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, a beautiful sheepskin manuscript prepared by Sister M. Gratia of Chicago, was presented together with a book about Lithuanian crosses, which will be preserved with the collection of Lithuanian treasures in the Vatican.

In anticipation of the cherished audience with the Holy Father, Mrs. Kaneb says in part, " . . . We are going to see and hear the Holy Father speak directly to us, his daughters. We are going as Lithuanians, proudly wearing festive garments of a proud land." Mrs. Kaneb further states, "In truth, when we knelt for His Holiness' blessing, deeply moved but comforted, we felt in our innermost being the confidence of the Holy Church, the breath of our mission as a whole, and our responsibilities as daughters of the Church and our nation . . . much is to be done if woman is to fulfill her mission on earth according to the thought of the Holy Church."

1958 — Woman's Lot, An Honorary One

Spiritual Director. Msgr. F. Juras, writing in the first edition of "Moterų Dirva" — Jan., 1958 — on the honor of womanhood, said in part, "Every parish has a fine quota of good women. If these women would couple their good intentions with Catholic Action, there would be an immediate transition in their families, organizations and in the community . . ."

Supreme Pres., Mrs. Marie Kase, expressed her thoughts thusly: "My heartfelt desire for this year is that our membership would not decrease and that the ties that bind us would not weaken, but grow ever stronger . . .